

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VS.

Thor Alexander Morris

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CRIMINAL NO. H:00-512

ORDER

Pending before the Court is the Defendant's unopposed motion for continuance of the trial setting. The Defendant requests a week continuance under 18 U.S.C. §3161(h)(8)(A) in order to allow for the continuation of plea negotiations. The Defendant anticipates that the negotiations will conclude by January 29, 2007.

The basis for a continuance under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A) is a finding that the ends of justice served by granting such continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the Defendant in a speedy trial. An "end of justice" continuance under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A), such as that requested herein, was "intended for use in situations that do not fall within one of the exclusions specifically set out in 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(1)-(7)." *United States v. Fields*, 39 F.3d 439, 445 n.6 (3d Cir. 1994). One such situation is to provide the parties with additional time to pursue plea negotiations. *Id.* ("We therefore see no reason why an 'ends of justice' continuance may not be granted in appropriate circumstances to permit plea negotiations to continue"). The Court therefore finds that granting the continuance under these circumstances and the ends of justice served thereby outweigh the best interests of the public and the Defendant in a speedy trial.

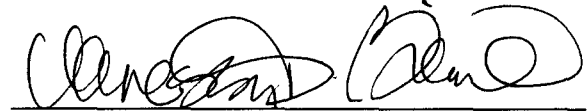
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant's motion for continuance is **GRANTED**.

A period of excludable delay shall commence from today, Nov 22, 2010, pursuant to 18 U.S.C.

§ 3161(h)(8)(A), and end upon the start of trial. Trial of this case is hereby scheduled to commence

on Jan 14, 2011.

SIGNED on this the 22nd day of Nov, 2010, at Houston, Texas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa D. Gilmore', written over a horizontal line.

VANESSA D. GILMORE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE